

July 16, 1999

To: David Cook, Transportation Modes Coordinator
Michele Coffelt, Faculty/Staff Eco Pass Coordinator
Sissy Hedrick, Faculty/Staff Parking Permit Coordinator

CC: James Fadenrecht, Director, Department of Public Safety
Paul Tabolt, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

We wish to voice our support for the faculty Eco Pass program. As the Members' Council of the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Environmental Sciences (CIRES) here at CU, we represent approximately 350 Professional Research Assistants and Research Associates located on the main CU campus, East Campus, and the David Skaggs Research Center on the Department of Commerce campus on south Broadway. Many of us recently moved to the David Skaggs Research Center from locations on East campus, and can now take advantage of the Skip and Hop services.

Based on information available from Parking Services, we understand that the Faculty/Staff Eco Pass program was implemented primarily to reduce the cost of (and need for) parking on the Boulder campus. The cost and availability of parking is a concern to all of us and we applaud Parking Services for pursuing this innovative solution. Given this motivation for implementing the program, it appears to follow that the primary measure of success of the program is the subsequent reduction in on-campus parking. As we understand it, this reduction is being measured with surveys and by observing the number of individuals that give up their full-time parking permits. We feel that these methods of measure don't fully capture the degree of Eco Pass use, particularly by our organization, which in large part parks on East Campus and/or the DOC Broadway campus and therefore isn't reflected in the Main Campus parking permit statistics.

The survey and parking permit measures also ignore other important benefits of the Eco Pass program. All of us that live along the Colorado Front Range realize that the use of alternative transportation is a larger issue than just the cost of providing adequate parking on the Boulder campus. Auto emissions are a large contributor to reduced air quality in the Boulder/Denver corridor, and the volume of traffic is an important quality of life issue for all of us. In addition to these broader environmental and quality of life issues, there are direct economic issues that should be considered along with the cost of providing parking. For example, a reduction in traffic enforcement costs may be realized with increased bus ridership. Efficient transportation alternatives also allow employees to spend less time commuting and parking and more time focusing on their jobs.

Finally, the pricing structure of current parking services doesn't encourage employees to relinquish their full-time parking permits. Individuals that drive two days a week still find purchasing a full-time parking permit to be as economical (and probably more convenient) as

paying a daily fee, even at the "CHIP" discounted daily rate.

Many CU employees have creative ideas and enthusiasm for making the program work while at the same time achieving the goal of reducing the number of parking permits being used on any given day. Suggestions include:

- Assigning those individuals that want to use the bus as their primary transportation to campus -- while continuing to hold their parking permit -- to a parking lot which is oversold, but has a high percentage of people who have agreed to use their Eco Pass as much as possible.
- Implementing graduated payment plans which reward employees who drive (for example) five days a month or less, provide a slightly smaller reward for those who drive six to ten days a month, etc.

Feel free to contact the CIRES Members' Council via e-mail at *MembersCouncil@cdc.noaa.gov* if you have any questions regarding our position. We hope to work with you to assure that this important program will be able to continue and achieve the goals of reduced parking use and reduced environmental impact.

Sincerely,

The CIRES Members' Council:

Wayne Angevine
Mihail Codrescu
Julia Collins
Rod Frehlich
Michelle Holm
Anne Jefferson
Ann Keane
Anne Nolin
Karen O'Loughlin
Sarah Thompson
Lynn Walloch
Allen White

CIRES Members' Council Web page: <http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/~jac/cires/members.html>